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KENTUCKY WEEKLY CROP & WEATHER REPORT



Prepared in Cooperation with:
Univ. of Ky - Agr'l Weather Center
U.S. Dept. of Commerce - NOAA
Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Cooperative Extension Service

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AGRICULTURAL NEWS: Producers had ideal fieldwork conditions the first three days of the week with highs nearing 80 degrees. Clouds and thunderstorms moved in later in the week which dropped temperatures to around 40 degrees and some areas even hit the lower 30's. The cold air and frost advisories were a slight concern for farmers, but little to no damage problems were reported. Temperatures for the period averaged 60 degrees across the State which was 2 degrees above normal. Precipitation for the period totaled 0.80 inches statewide, 0.18 inches below normal.

Topsoil moisture as of Friday, April 22 was rated 1 percent very short, 12 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 5 percent short, 82 percent adequate, and 13 percent surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork averaged 5.4 out of a possible 7 days. Primary farming activities for the week continued to include spraying, ground working, corn planting, top dressing wheat, and moving cattle to pastures.

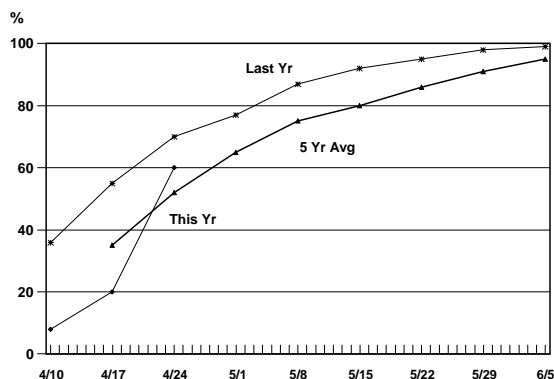
TOBACCO: Plants grown in traditional plant beds were at 5 percent, while 95 percent were seeded in greenhouses and float beds. As of Sunday, April 24 tobacco transplants were reported as 59 percent less than 2 inches, 31 percent were between 2 to 4 inches, and 10 percent were larger than 4 inches.

CORN AND SOYBEANS: Corn producers have seeded 60 percent of their acres, as of Sunday, April 24, compared to 70 percent last year, and 52 percent for the average. Germination of corn is progressing well, although reports indicate that the process has been slower in parts of eastern Kentucky. Emerged corn was reported at 20 percent, slightly behind last year's 31 percent. Corn emerged condition rated at 1 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 63 percent good, 17 percent excellent. Soybeans were 3 percent planted, equal to last year's percentage and 1 percent ahead of the average.

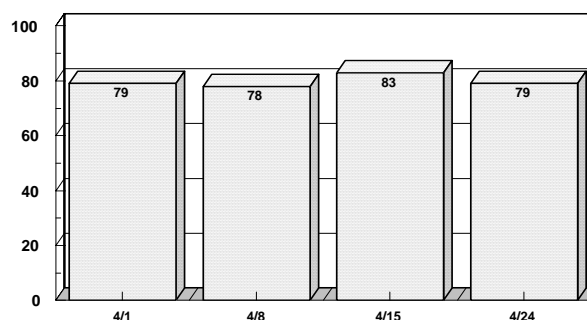
SMALL GRAINS: As of Friday, April 22, winter wheat condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 28 percent excellent. Wheat headed or heading was reported at 2 percent, compared to 7 percent in 2004, and 11 percent for the average.

OTHER CROPS: Range and pasture condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 20 percent good, 58 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Rain has helped to invigorate pasture and new seedings of hay. The expected date of the first alfalfa cutting is May 7th. Strawberries are in bloom and crop condition was 3 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 16 percent excellent.

CORN PLANTING PROGRESS



WHEAT CONDITION
% Good to Excellent



KENTUCKY CROP PROGRESS

WEEK ENDING APRIL 24, 2005
WITH COMPARISONS

Crop Stage	This Week	Previous Year	5-Yr. Avg.	Previous Week KY	U.S.
Percentage					
Corn					
Planted	60	70	52	20	14
Emerged	20	31	23	NA	NA
Wheat					
Headed or Heading	2	7	11	NA	8
Soybeans Planted	3	3	2	NA	NA

(NA)Data Not Available.

SOIL MOISTURE

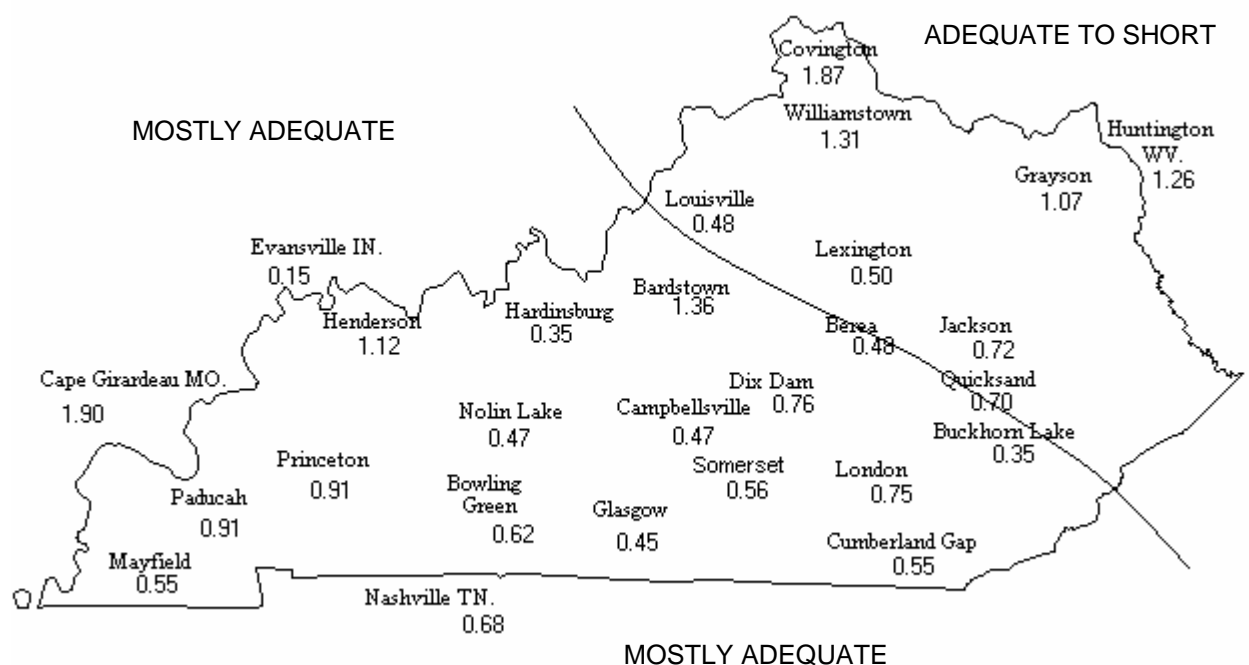
WEEK ENDING APRIL 22, 2005
WITH COMPARISONS

	This Week	Previous Week
Percentage		
TOPSOIL		
Very Short	1	0
Short	12	1
Adequate	75	72
Surplus	12	27
SUBSOIL		
Very Short	0	0
Short	5	1
Adequate	82	75
Surplus	13	24

KENTUCKY CROP CONDITIONS (Percent)

WEEK ENDING APRIL 22, 2005						WEEK ENDING APRIL 15, 2005				
CROP	VERY POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCEL- LENT	VERY POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCEL- LENT
Corn Emerged	0	1	19	63	17	-	-	-	-	-
Wheat	1	3	17	51	28	1	2	14	60	23
Pasture	1	6	20	58	15	1	5	30	47	17
Strawberries	0	3	17	64	16	-	-	-	-	-

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 7:00 P.M. TOPSOIL MOISTURE DELINEATION FOR WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2005



KENTUCKY WEATHER SUMMARY, APRIL 18 - 24, 2005:

Above Normal Temperatures and Below Normal Precipitation:

The first three days of the week were ideal for outdoor activities as highs were near 80 degrees and lows were in the 50's each day. Late Wednesday and during the day on Thursday a stationary front sagged south across the State bringing rain to western and eastern areas. Clouds also kept temperatures cooler, but low 80's were still reached in the southern part of the State. Friday morning began with a band of moderate rain moving east. After some minor clearing of the skies in the early afternoon, strong and severe thunderstorms developed ahead of a cold front. Main reports were of hail and strong winds, but a weak tornado was confirmed in Jefferson County. Extremely cold air was ushered in behind the front prompting frost and freeze advisories to be issued. Some lingering rain turned over to sleet and light snow. Temperatures were about 20 degrees below normal on Saturday as highs were only in the 40's. Record lows were set in Jackson and Louisville on Sunday morning when temperatures dropped into the lower 30's. Skies began to clear and temperatures warmed up slightly on Sunday. Temperatures have averaged above normal for 4 weeks. Precipitation has averaged below normal for the past 3 weeks.

Temperatures for the period averaged 60 degrees across the State which was 2 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged from 72 in the West to 71 in the East. Departure from normal high temperatures ranged from 1 degree below normal in the West to 3 degrees above normal in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 50 degrees in the West to 49 degrees in the East. Departure from normal low temperature ranged from 1 degree above normal in the West to 2 degrees above normal in the East. The extreme high pressure was 83 degrees in Glasgow and Princeton. The extreme low temperature was 32 degrees in several locales across the Commonwealth.

Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 0.80 inches statewide which was 0.18 inches below normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 0.92 inches, Central 0.62 inches, Bluegrass 0.92 inches and East 0.74 inches, which was 0.15, 0.38, 0.02 and 0.17 inches respectively below normal. By station, precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.35 inches at Hardinsburg to a high of 1.87 inches at Covington.

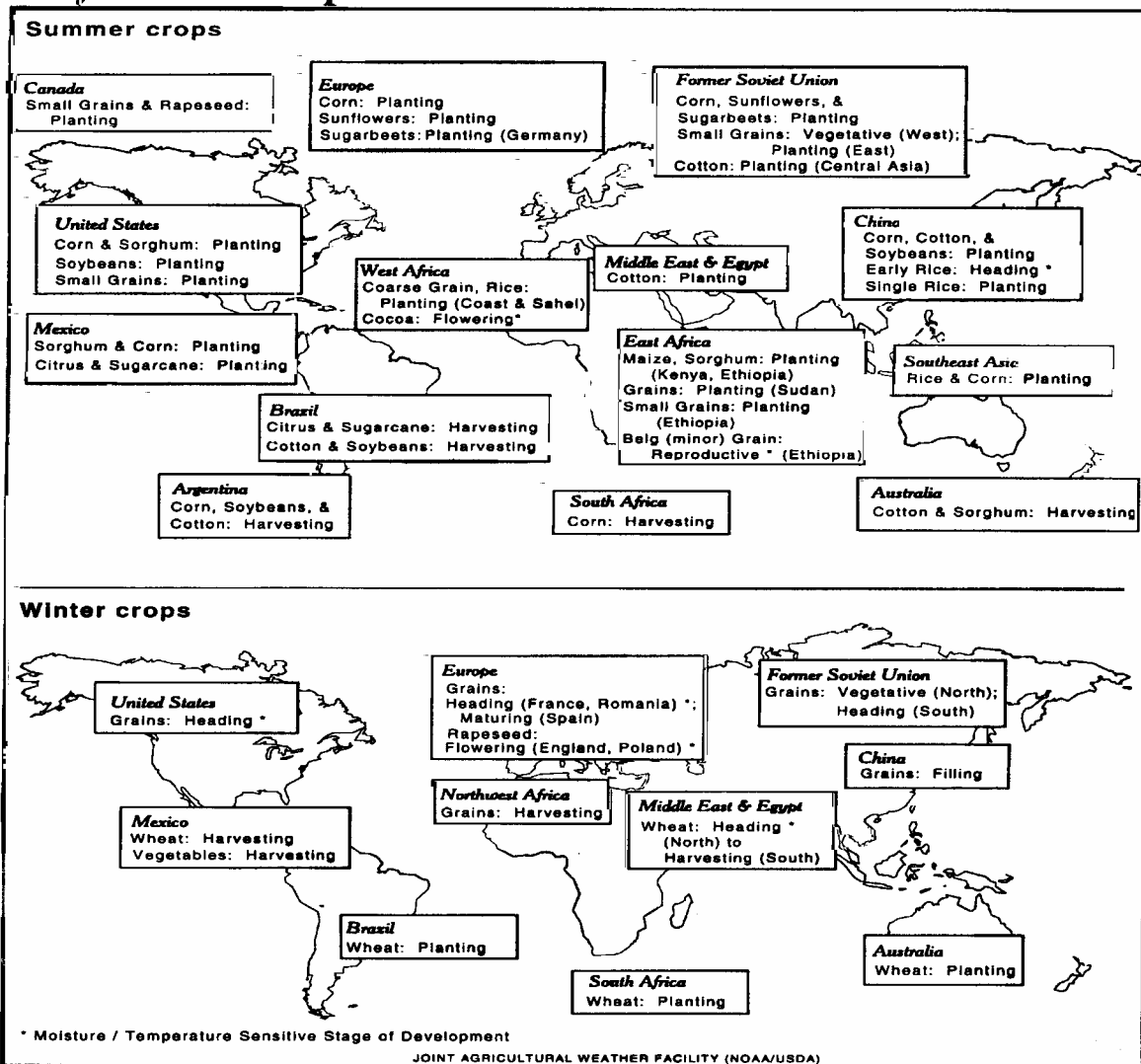
Tom Priddy

KENTUCKY TEMPERATURES AND RAINFALL FOR WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 7:00 P.M.

Weather Station	Precipitation		Deviation From Normal Since Jan. 1	Temperatures					Air Temp.
	Last Week	Since Jan 1		Soil 4 In. High	Grass Low	Air High	Air Low	Wkly. Avg	Deviation From Normal
	(Inches)			(Degrees Fahrenheit)					
Bardstown	1.36	15.19	+1.62	68	55	79	32	60.5	+2
Berea	0.48	12.91	-0.55	63	53	81	33	62.5	+5
Bowling Green	0.62	14.46	-2.05	--	--	81	34	60.4	+2
Bristol	0.92	11.61	-1.40	--	--	79	31	56.0	-1
Buckhorn Lake	0.35	13.00	-1.47	--	--	80	33	60.0	+3
Cape Girardeau	1.90	13.96	-0.83	--	--	81	32	60.5	-0
Campbellsville	0.47	15.64	-0.68	63	54	81	34	62.2	+4
Covington	1.87	15.27	+2.75	--	--	79	32	55.8	-1
Cumberland Gap	0.55	14.01	-2.63	67	54	80	33	60.0	+3
Dix Dam	0.76	12.98	-1.12	--	--	79	32	60.3	+3
Evansville	0.15	11.34	-2.37	--	--	80	35	59.6	-1
Glasgow	0.45	15.95	-0.80	61	54	83	34	63.8	+5
Grayson	1.07	13.25	+1.19	67	54	82	33	59.4	+2
Hardinsburg	0.35	11.50	-3.92	72	53	81	34	60.4	+2
Henderson	1.12	12.37	-1.92	67	54	80	33	60.1	-1
Huntington	1.26	13.29	+1.30	--	--	83	33	59.4	+2
Jackson	0.72	15.31	+0.80	--	--	81	32	60.1	+3
Lexington	0.50	11.81	-1.76	--	--	79	32	58.1	+1
London	0.75	13.01	-1.63	--	--	81	33	58.4	+1
Louisville	0.48	13.03	-1.17	--	--	81	33	59.7	+1
Mayfield	0.55	13.73	-4.09	67	54	80	33	60.0	-1
Nashville	0.68	16.45	+0.69	--	--	83	36	63.0	+4
Nolin Lake	0.47	14.13	-1.51	--	--	81	34	61.4	+3
Paducah	0.91	14.57	-1.53	--	56	81	37	61.6	+1
Princeton	0.91	14.82	-2.19	80	54	83	36	63.4	+3
Quicksand	0.70	13.51	-1.00	67	54	80	33	60.0	+3
Somerset	0.56	16.11	+0.54	64	54	81	33	59.3	+2
Spindletop	0.60	10.53	-3.04	61	49	77	33	57.8	+1
Williamstown	1.31	13.91	+0.58	67	54	79	32	56.7	-0

The above information is provided by Tom Priddy, Kentucky Extension Agricultural Meteorologist, University of Kentucky Agr'l Weather Center (859)257-3000 ext 245. E-mail: priddy@uky.edu Additional Ky weather data available on Internet at: <http://www.wagwx.ca.uky.edu/>

May normal crop calendar



This release and others can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky/> For a free E-Mail subscription of the Kentucky Weekly Crop & Weather report, on the Internet go to <http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm> and follow the instructions.